

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF
CAREY HIGH SCHOOL FOR WIN-
NING THE DIVISION VI STATE
FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise to pay a very special tribute to an outstanding high school football team in Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. The young men of the Carey High School football team have represented their school ably on their way to becoming the Champions of the Division VI State Football Championship tournament. The Carey Blue Devils overcame the challenges of intense competition on the path to reach the championship playoffs, capping off an outstanding season with their noteworthy performance.

In pursuing the State Championship, the Carey Blue Devils defeated their outstanding competitors to win the state football title. The Blue Devils played an impressive final game that highlighted the teamwork they have demonstrated throughout their trip to the playoffs. Each member of this very special team has shown the individual effort that their sport requires for a successful team result. As a direct consequence of their hard work and dedication, both on and off the field, they achieved an impressive season record that brought pride to their community.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to the Carey High School football team. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize this great achievement.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF GREGORY
RONALD "RON" HERRING, SR.

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Gregory Ronald "Ron" Herring, Sr. Ron spent his life dedicated to his family and the people of the Northern Neck. He was the kind of person who never met a stranger.

Ron graduated from Hargrave Military Academy in 1968 and went on to apprentice and graduate from Newport News Ship Building in 1972. He met the love of his life, Linda Lee, and they were married on March 14, 1970. Together they started the Home Crafters in 1987 where they erected more than 300 homes and completed countless renovations.

Throughout his life, Ron was very involved with the Morattico Baptist Church, the Northumberland County Republican Committee, the Northern Neck Home Builders Association, and the Northumberland County school system. Ron was also an avid outdoorsman with a deep love for the Northern Neck's waters. He enjoyed spending his time fishing, boating, and advocating for commercial and sport fishermen.

Ron is survived by his wife and sweetheart, Linda; sister, Georgena Herring Strawderman; daughters, Angela (Shawn) Clarke and Sara

Bishop; son, Greg (Shannon) Herring; grandchildren Madison, Bobby and Jacob Clarke, Luke and McKenna Dooley, and Danielle Thompson.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me and countless others as we recognize the life of Gregory Ronald Herring, Sr.

RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT VETERAN SUICIDE

HON. BARRY MOORE

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Madam Speaker, today I would like to bring to your attention Operation Iron Ruck, an event led by the University of Alabama and Auburn University's Student Veteran Associations to raise awareness of the critical issue of veteran suicide. Operation Iron Ruck is held every year ahead of the Iron Bowl, the classic football game where the Auburn University Tigers face off against the University of Alabama Crimson Tide.

Unfortunately, each day, twenty-two veterans and active-duty service members take their lives. To raise awareness of this tragedy, Operation Iron Ruck participants hike 151 miles from Tuscaloosa, Alabama, all the way to Auburn. Participants carry twenty-two pounds of gear to represent each of those fallen warfighters.

Once at Auburn, the items inside the rucks are then donated to Alabama State Veteran homes and to Three Hots and A Cot, a non-profit organization committed to securing housing for veterans in need. Additionally, over \$5,000 was raised this year to further support these organizations and other support groups, such as Mission 22 and the student veterans' associations of both universities.

Madam Speaker, we owe it to every American who has ever worn a uniform in military service of our great nation to honor their sacrifices and ensure that they never face a scenario where they falsely believe their last option is to tragically take their own life. As a country, may we renew our dedication to these men and women and care for those who have put their own lives on the line for our liberty and safety. Let this commemoration forever be preserved in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the United States, and may the world never forget the sacrifices of these brave men and women.

HONORING MARTHA BARRA

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today with my colleague Congressman MIKE THOMPSON in recognition of the 80th birthday of Martha Barra and her lifetime of work building the Barra family wine business of Mendocino County into an industry leader in sustainable, organic wine production.

Born on December 14, 1941, Martha's career in the wine industry began in 1980, when she married the late Charlie Barra, a trail-

blazer in Mendocino County's early wine industry. Under the stewardship of Martha and Charlie Barra, Barra of Mendocino and Girasole Vineyards broke new ground, setting the standard for ecologically friendly wine grape growing and wine making techniques, and becoming leaders in Mendocino County's nascent environmentally conscious 'green' wine industry.

Martha Barra learned the wine business from the inside out, exploring ecologically conscious agriculture and production methods long before these practices were well known. She went on to directly manage the winery's organic certification process herself for nearly 30 years. Today, all of the grapes grown on the 325 acre Barra vineyard in Mendocino County's inland valley are 100 percent certified organic. Thanks to her pioneering efforts in eco-friendly agriculture, close to 25 percent of the vineyards in Mendocino County are also certified organic.

Barra of Mendocino and Girasole Vineyards remains an independent, family-owned and operated business under Martha Barra's leadership. As the matriarch of a multi-talented family, Barra employed the skills of her adult children to continue to elevate the business. Today, her son and daughter assist her in growing nine different varietals, producing and marketing two wine brands, operating a 2.8 million gallon custom crush facility, and running a uniquely charming events center located along Highway 101.

Originally designed to look like an inverted wine glass, the 5,000 square foot Barra Winery Event Center hosts private events enjoyed by both Mendocino County residents and visitors from near and far. The Barra Winery Event Center reflects Martha Barra's community-minded values by also providing a uniquely beautiful space for fundraising opportunities to support local nonprofits, and her Barra of Mendocino donates to a range of charitable organizations, with a special dedication toward causes of promoting and supporting the needs of children, cancer research, awareness, and patient support and improving our local community.

In the face of changing and challenging times including the COVID-19 pandemic, Martha Barra has led the family business to continue to prosper, offering COVID-safe wine tasting to guests at their winery, as well as virtual tasting events and wine distribution in 35 states and several countries.

Martha Barra currently spends most of her time overseeing the vineyard operations, doing local tastings and events, working with the winemakers to set flavor profiles, and managing the organic certification processes. At wine events, she is known fondly for handing out shiny stickers of bees, representing her commitment to the importance of sustainable agriculture. From learning the intricacies of organic wine production, to food and wine pairing, studying architecture and remodeling houses, Martha Barra is a person of many talents.

Martha Barra's enduring commitment to protecting the environment and the people of Mendocino County, while also producing premier, award-winning wine, is remarkable and a benefit to the region. Madam Speaker, please join us in recognizing Martha Barra for her many contributions and wishing her a wonderful birthday.